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## Other Nutrition Assistance Programs

**T**he **Special Milk Program** furnishes milk to all children in approved schools, camps, and child care institutions that have no federally sponsored meal programs. About 8,000 schools and residential child care institutions, 1,400 camps, and 500 non-residential child care institutions participate in the program. USDA reimburses schools and other providers for the milk they serve.

The **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** distributes supplemental foods directly to women, infants, children, and the elderly in 18 States and on two Indian reservations. Food packages are tailored to the specific nutritional needs of participants, and include such foods as canned fruits and vegetables, juices, meats, fish, peanut butter, cereal and grain products, and dairy products. Infants can receive formula and rice cereal. The program served more than 375,000 in fiscal year 1998.

FNS provides nutrition assistance for **disaster relief** to State agencies and organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army in such emergencies as

hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and winter storms. Depending on the nature and severity of the crisis, USDA may provide commodity foods to shelters and mass feeding sites, give food packages to families in need, or provide them emergency food stamps. USDA and its partners feed tens of thousands of survivors of natural disasters every year.

FNS furnishes surplus commodities to **charitable institutions and summer camps** at no cost. A variety of nonprofit institutions that regularly serve meals can participate: homes for the elderly, hospitals that offer general and long-term health care, soup kitchens, home-delivered meal programs, and orphanages that do not participate in any of the child nutrition programs.

The **Nutrition Assistance Programs in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands** provide cash or food vouchers in place of food stamps and commodities.

